SKITTISH
ASSociation

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C. W. Cooke Esq CE

SAYINGS AND DOINGS

from his friend

OF THE

C Spence Bate

Skittish ASSociation.

DEDICATED TO

Clubbe

BY THE

REV. CARCINUS MULE, E.Q.C.,
MEMBER.

PUBLISHED BY W. BRENDON AND SON, TAMARWORTH.
To be had wherever it can be bought.
N.B.—"NEITHER A BORROWER NOR A LENDER BE."—*Shake Spear.*

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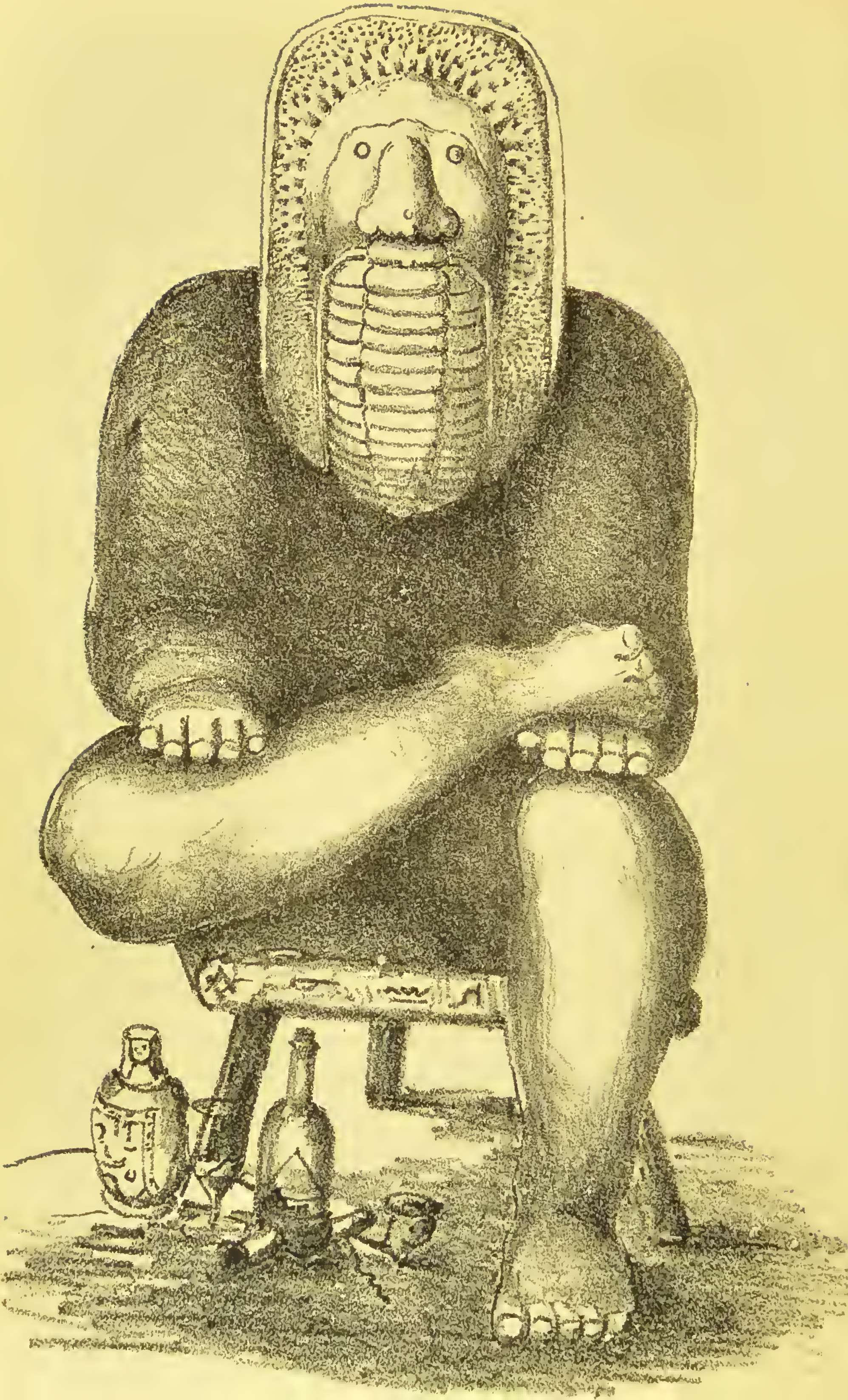


THE
SKITTISH ASSOCIATION
At Tamarworth;
OR, THE FEAST OF THE RED LIONS.

"WHO'S GRIFFITHS?

"Well, I am surprised! to think that such a thing should be done and we not consulted," ejaculated with due emphasis the CHAIRMAN of the Western Counties and Drake's Island United Amalgamated Hebdomadal Association of School Boards.

"So am I," echoed the VICE. "I should like to know how anybody dared to have the impudence to trespass on our domain, and invite the 'Skittish Association' to Tamarworth. What the d——."

"Gently, gently," interrupted the SECRETARY. "How can we, my dear sir, expect the children that have been placed under our care to appreciate Dr. Watts's delightful hymn—

> 'Let dogs delight to bark and bite,'

if we use such language as this? Consider the example, sir; consider the example."

However, the worthy Vice by no means stood alone in his indignation. The United Hebdomadal Association of School Boards had done a great work. There was not a child within their wide dominion that had not pondered deeply the cabala of the solemn problem, "If a herring and a half cost three halfpence, what do eleven herrings come to?" Not one but knew how many donkeys it took to make an asses bridge. They had learnt by *argumentum baculinum* "how many blue beans made five." "Noughts and crosses" were to them merely a recreation; and they had dived deeply into the recondite mysteries of Mother Goose. Not unacquainted were they also with the Pythagorean numerical arcana; for the upper classes were ready to stake their holidays on the fact that one and one made two. And it was into the midst of a community so intelligent, so learned, that the Skittish Association was to intrude with its schismatic teachings and its vagrant erudition. What business had anybody to invite the Association without consulting the School Board Hebdomadary? and who and what was the Association thus invited?

The problem was too deep for the unaided powers of the Board; so, as their custom was, pipes and tobacco were handed round, and speedily the company were lost in a cloud of their own blowing, reasoning on the homœopathic principle that like cures like, and that this was the best way to combat the fog which had been raised outside. The effects were soon apparent.

Miss OIDENNE (the one lady member of the United Boards, who as a consequence was made much of by the gentlemen) declared that she now saw her way quite clearly. In fact, she forgave everybody, and should be delighted to attend the meeting of the Association. She was a little skittish herself; and as to skittles, she doted upon them.

But here the SECRETARY interposed, and stated on his honour as a gentleman that the Association had nothing to do with skittles.

Miss OIDENNE knew all that. When she said she was skittish, she meant that she liked rinking; and did not the Skittish Association intend to meet in the new rink at Tamarworth?

The SECRETARY blandly explained that, so far as he knew, the Skittish Association had nothing to do with skating, though some of its members did stumble occasionally. He appealed to the men and brethren whom he saw around, whether if a man lived in a stable he must be an ass?

So Miss Oidenne indignantly betook herself to the last new novel, inscribed the Secretary in her black books; and all once more was silent and *mist*ical, until after long deliberation the CHAIRMAN exclaimed, "I have an idea."

Great was the excitement. Such a thing was unprecedented in the history of the School Board movement; and every voice was hushed as he announced, with grave unction, "The Skittish Association is an assembly of philosophers; they travel about the country to show themselves, like so many wild beasts or menageries."

"Yes," said the SECRETARY, who had been up to the Free Library to consult the custodian, "that's it; and they have a magnificent collection with them, which they call the 'Red Lions.'"

"Humbug," shouted the VICE; "there's no such thing as a red lion."

There was only one way of settling the doubt thus raised, and so the Secretary was at once despatched to Timbuctoo to make the necessary inquiries of the natives; and as the Chairman refused to evolve any more ideas until the Vice apologised for his unmanly interruption, and the Vice would not apologise until the Secretary returned, matters came to a dead-lock; and the United Amalgamated Hebdomadal Association might have remained in session until this day, had not Miss Oidenne, disgusted with her novel, suggested that if something were not done, the outside world would say their proceedings had all ended in smoke.

So it was resolved, that inasmuch as there were many vagrant associations tramping the country, and since it was necessary to be very heedful concerning strange doctrine, it was imperative that full enquiries should be made as to the object and character of the Skittish Association, so as to be able to keep it off if it was really as bad as it sounded. A Committee was therefore appointed to attend the meeting at Tamarworth, and report thereon. This was done; and probably prompt action would have been taken but for the news that the existence of the Red Lions had been most clearly demonstrated. It was true that nothing had been seen or heard of the Secretary since he had fallen in with these ferocious beasts; but, as the Vice remarked, with his usual want of consideration for other people, "there must be some little sacrifice in the pursuit of science." The discovery of the Red Lions threw everything else into the shade; and had it not been for the accidental fact that a draft copy of the report of the Committee on the doings of the Skittish Association fell into the hands of the editor's butterman, the valuable results of their labours, which we now proceed to set forth, would have been lost to the world as well as to posterity. Here then, followeth the report.

Biology.

ANGELS' WINGS.

On the Homologies of Angels' Wings: by Professor MacDugal, of St. Luke's, P.Q.S., P.S., &c.

This was a paper of considerable interest, if we might judge from the large attendance and the eager discussion which followed—especially to scientific ladies and clergymen.

Professor MACDUGAL commenced by saying that wings were of various kinds. There were bees' wings, birds' wings, bats' wings, fishes' wings, all of which were intended to be useful as machinery adapted to assist animals through space. It could therefore be seen that wings were not intended for one kind of animal only; that they existed in birds, fish, reptiles, insects, and mammals; and he therefore contended that it was not irrational of him to assume that, since they existed in all kinds of animals on earth, they might be found to exist among those celestial beings whose duty it was to go between earth and heaven.

There were other kinds of wings he was aware; such as the wing of a house, or of an army, or of the wind; and it was not, he thought, improbable that the wings of the wind might be of the same composition as that used by angels; nor was it impossible that to facilitate intercourse between distant places they might proceed on the wings of the wind, and so economise material, and according to a fixed and beautiful law of nature, perform many functions with as few organs as possible.

Wings were of different materials.

Those of birds were of feather;
Those of mammals were of leather.

The wings of fish were fins, and those of insects were gossamer. Thus it must be perceived that as they progressed from the heavy and corporeal mammal to the light and fairy-like bee, they advanced from the untanned wing of the bat and flying monkey through the soft feathery pinion of the eagle who bore the youthful Ganymede to the realms of the gods, to the delicate and ethereal film of the bee's wing—an organism so highly valued in this world, that the wealthy were frequently known to preserve these wings in wine, that had been imported especially for that purpose from Oporto.

The wings of angels, it must be assumed therefore, approached in character the spiritual nature of the last-mentioned kind; and it was highly important to obtain a clear idea of the correct homology of the organ, in order the more distinctly to appreciate the character and nature of the beings to whom it belonged.

In whatever animals wings were found they invariably were intimately connected with the anterior pairs of limbs, known as arms. The only exception the lecturer was aware of was that of Mercury, in whom wings were stated to have sprung from the tendon Achilles; but as they were also said to have been attached to his helmet, it was quite clear that the ancient naturalists, from the want of the compound microscope, had not studied anatomy homologically.

Whatever form also the wings in various animals took they sprung from some part of the arm. Thus in the bat they formed the hand. In birds they were variated out of the arm or the hand, by loss or variety. In fish the entire limb became the fin or wing; but in insects the wing sprung from the scapular arc, leaving the general movements of the limb free. There was in this a beautiful link that demonstrated clearly the origin, nature, and homology of the wings of angels. Immediately above the arm of man, as well as in the lower animals, there was articulated with it a broad wing-like plate known as the scapula. *He defied any scientific person to look at this specimen* (holding up a scapula) *and say that there was not a close resemblance in form between it and the wings of certain insects.*

Professor MACDUGAL proceeded: What is the scapula, then? It is, I contend, no more and no less than a rudimentary wing. If we want a parallel case in nature we have to turn to the Cassowary and the Dodo, whose wings are reduced in size until they are covered and hid in feathers. In man they are covered and hid by the dermal tissues. Now as feathers are themselves only dermal tissues, we see the analogy and exact parallel. All organs lose their efficiency from want of use; they first become feeble and diminutive, and ultimately disappear. We see therefore how clear it is to demonstration that men (particularly women) are but wingless angels.

It will also assist us by showing the transition stage between angels and men (particularly women) to account for that important difficulty which divines, ancient and modern, have been so much exercised upon. Why is it that in Jacob's dream the angels ascended and descended on a ladder instead of using their wings? To accept the answer propounded by a thoughtful young non-ecclesiastic of Kingsbridge, that they were moulting, is merely to beg the question. First, it must necessitate the use of feathers; secondly, it introduces the hypothesis that angels approximate the character of birds and moult at certain seasons of the year; and thirdly, that it was the season for moulting when Jacob saw them. Now, as it is quite clear that they used a ladder for the purpose of locomotion in a vertical direction, it follows that they must have been accustomed to this kind of exercise; for they never would have made so expensive a means of conveyance for a single night only. Besides, Jacob visited his uncle in the summer, and that is not the moulting period. We therefore come to the conclusion that these angels were in a transition state; those ascending were angels whose wings were progressing in development; those descending were men (particularly women) being angels whose wings were in a state of collapse, demonstrating clearly that women are not, as they are often erroneously stated to be, *fallen* angels, seeing that they came down on a *ladder.*

The CHAIRMAN thanked the learned Professor for his admirable and interesting paper, and invited the gentlemen present to discuss the subject.

Miss DECKER immediately sprang to her feet, and said that if the Chairman had but the politeness to have asked the ladies as well as the gentlemen, she had no doubt many might have liked to take part in the discussion, so interesting to them particularly. She for one was glad to have the point settled as to the object and uses of the great flat bone stuck on their shoulders, which, previous to the beautiful specimen Professor MacDugal had exhibited, she had only known in a shoulder of mutton as the blade-bone, and not a very economical cut. She should for the future feel more interest in the rudimentary wing, and never again call it an oyster, as she had been accustomed.

The Rev. Mr. MEASLES, a rather timid and sensitive clergyman of the Holy Cross Association, with some hesitation confessed that during the very interesting discourse of Professor MacDugal he had been observing closely the scapulæ of several of the ladies in front of him. [Hereon there was a general rustle of shawls and mantles, which made the Rev. Mr. Measles so nervous that he could scarcely proceed.] He did not mean anything that was offensive, and he hoped that the ladies would forgive him for saying that there were several present, particularly the oldest, or rather he should say the less juvenile, or—what he really meant was that they were not so young as the others, who were clearly on the point of becoming angels, if he might form an opinion from the evident tendency to the enlargement of the embryonic wing or scapula.

Having said this much the Rev. Mr. Measles sat down with somewhat of an uncomfortable colour on his face, perceiving that there were few ladies present who would not prefer remaining as they were, than to become angels on the condition that the development of their wings should be of a character thus visible to men.

VIVISECTION AND VIVISECTORS.

The Committee appointed at a previous meeting of the Association brought up their Report on Vivisection, a most important and interesting communication. It was read by Professor BUXLEY, FUS. UP. and ON.

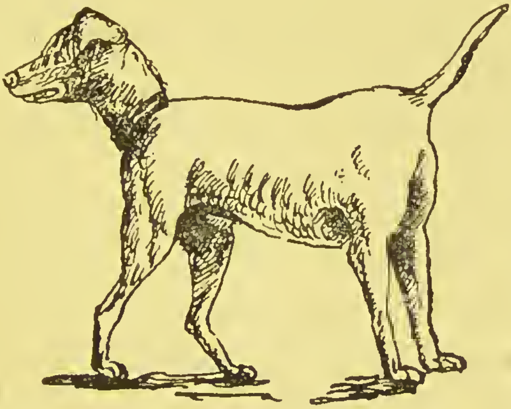
The Report was evidently the result of a very extensive enquiry, and went largely into the subject which called it forth. Evidence had been taken in all the more important centres where the revolting practice had been carried on; and the most notoriously cruel practitioners had been summoned to give evidence before the Committee. It had been found nearly all over the country that young sheep were taken from their parents at a tender age and part of their tails cut off, that hot irons were applied to the tender part after the operation, and then that the animals were allowed to run about in that condition. Pigs were also found to a very large extent subject to the cruel operation of having sharp iron staples driven into their noses, and retained there by rivets. This was a prolonged process, which appeared to give exquisite pain, if the cries of the victims were any criterion. Neither of these two operations were ever performed, as far as could be learnt, under chloroform or any anæsthetic whatever.

But the most revolting of all vivisectors that came under the observation of the Committee were the Hunterian Professors, who appeared to take a delight in these cruel operations. They not only tore their victims to pieces, but amused themselves beforehand by chasing them from place to place. It was moreover a remarkable fact, which evidently showed the demoralising effects of vivisection, and how hardened the feelings became from constant association with cruelty, that these Professors were amongst those who justified most the necessity and importance for, and the entire absence of cruelty in, these peculiar operations. They admitted that other vivisectors were very cruel, and ought to be stopped; but directly the Committee suggested the administration of chloroform in their own experiments, that the animals might be operated upon without suffering, the Hunterian Professors became rude and violent, and called the Committee idiots.

The animals selected by the Hunterian Professors were remarkable for activity of nervous and muscular energy, and the object was evidently not so much the desire for scientific knowledge as the delight arising from the pleasure of the chase. The hare and the fox were the wild animals generally chosen by the Professors of this country. Not unfrequently they experimented on herrings, but their most numerous experiments were carried on upon horses and dogs. These latter being somewhat scarce, and necessarily rather expensive, were seldom killed, but, after being tortured to the utmost extent of their powers, reserved for future observation.

Concerning the experiments performed on these animals, the Professors were very reticent; and it was only after considerable pressure the Committee could induce Professor Stonehenge to communicate the details of a very curious but a very cruel operation. The Professor, who mostly operated on dogs, had one among his collection of victims that was very reluctant to be operated upon, and was consequently considered to be a savage animal. To punish the little victim for resisting his cruelty, the Professor tried to seize the poor creature by the tongue when the dog opened his mouth. However, the Professor thrust his hand with such violence therein, that it penetrated far beyond the limits of the œsophagus, and the Professor was much astonished to find that he could touch the coxal vertebræ. Being angered with the animal, he seized them in his hand, and shook the creature violently. The dog, convulsed with pain, and overcome with agony, tore himself violently away; and as the Professor would not let go his hold upon his tail, the poor creature was turned inside out. And this cruel operation was done without chloroform!!

The Committee generally were much inclined to believe that Professor Stonehenge was hoaxing them; but Professor Buxley assured them that they might rely on the statement as being very probable, as he himself had frequently seen in his foreign travels specimens of an animal that would, on a very small amount of irritation, throw all his inside out, and seem to enjoy himself quite as well. It was named *Holothuria*, because after being disembowelled it was *hollow* all *through*. And it was well known, he said, that an animal called *Hydra* could turn himself instead of his coat, and live quite as conveniently inside as outside. Professor Stonehenge's remarkable case being vouched for by so many parallel instances, the Committee accepted it as true; but could not help expressing their regret that the Professor had not the humanity to have performed the experiment under chloroform. The



dog lived for some time after, with apparently little inconvenience, except that it always ran and barked backwards; that is, it said "wow-bow" instead of "bow-wow"—a circumstance that was curiously illustrated in the fact that whenever it tried to follow another dog it ran away.

At the University of Cowford, Professor Hope admitted that he frequently disembowelled caterpillars and moths under chloroform, and impaled them with a pin, and confessed that he had seen them move the day after he had killed them. There was one case likewise on record of a spider being incarcerated for five years in a box without food, walking about afterwards as if he would like to eat a fly. This Professor disturbed the sympathies of the meeting to a great extent when he stated that the movements of the tortured animals were not the result of feeling, but due to a certain reflex action—a kind of mechanical movement; and had the audacity to tell the members of the Committee that an insect did not

"Feel a pang as great
As when a giant dies."

He would actually have had the Committee believe that the poet knew nothing about the matter. The Committee expressed their disapproval of such presumption.

At the Campont University, where a school of cookery had been for some time established, the experimenters took a more practical view of things. Thus Prosector Cymbal, who was an eminent conchologist, actually went so far as to swallow animals alive. He was particularly addicted to experiment on oysters, and he was never known to use chloroform even when he wrenched the shells asunder, or cut the animal out of its dwelling-place.

Professor Cook, of Cuisina College, admitted that he frequently experimented on various kinds of crustacea, and that he often put *Homarus marinus*, the common lobster, into boiling water, for the purpose of giving to its skin that beautiful red colour which is so much appreciated by the Professors of the University. This also gave them opportunities of noting the great amount of nervous force existing in those animals that had a ventral nervous system, as distinguished from those that had a dorsal one. He confessed with a great deal of effrontery that he had seen a *Palinurus vulgaris* jump with so much force that he knocked the cover off the retort in which the experiment was being conducted. In these researches no anæsthetic of any kind was ever used; and when asked by the Chairman of the Committee if he was not aware that if placed in cold water, from which the air had been expelled by its having been previously boiled for a few minutes, animals of the crab and lobster species would die easily, without torture, Professor Cook replied, with an expression and manner that exhibited an utter want of consciousness of his position, "that it was too much trouble, and was not worth while, and that he was doubtful if it would answer after all."

The report went on to say that the Committee wished to record their opinion that such heartless individuals as Professor Hunter and Professor Cook ought to be restrained from being permitted to perform any operation whatever upon the living subject, without the aid of chloroform, which the Committee considered to be one of the greatest blessings ever conferred upon man, (particularly animals) that were to undergo vivisection; and that no doubt it would facilitate the day when the lion should lie down with the lamb.

Geography.

DECAYED INTELLIGENCE.

The Committee then proceeded to visit the Geographical section, where they arrived in time to hear a valuable paper by Professor Verstegan de Verne on the "Restitution of Decayed Intelligence concerning Geography." In compliment to this distinguished corresponding member Dr. Harmonious Wambeery had been called to the chair; and the section was so crowded that it appeared as if bisection would become absolutely necessary.

Herr VERSTEGAN DE VERNE proclaimed himself the destined apostle of a new era in matters geographical. Why, he asked, was it that whilst every other science was advancing that of geography was at a standstill? Its professors were always "moving on," but the science was absolutely retrograding. People knew something about it once; but now the world was on this matter in the darkest ignorance. In other sciences they had been making discoveries; in this nobody was doing anything except losing and forgetting. It was his noble mission to restitute the intelligence that had so very much decayed—to call the mind of the geographical public from the tame details of the journeys of a Chamaleon, or the voyages of unproductive Snares, to the glowing pages of a Sinbad, the gorgeous hints of a Mandeville, the wonderful adventures of a Peter Wilkins, the noble career of a Gulliver, and the impressive verities of a Munchausen; men who were giants in research and daring, and who shone forth as stars of the first magnitude in the galaxy of the very milk-and-water-whey of modern geographers. Nobody nowadays discovered anything unless it was the sea-serpent, and he seemed to have shared in the common degeneracy, and to have unfolded so many tails that no one could say which was the true one. Besides, no modern sea-serpent could ever make a kraken. Othello, when he courted Desdemona, could tell her—

> "Of the Cannibals that each other eat,
> The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads
> Do grow beneath their shoulders."

And of course he won the lady. But a Chamaleon could go all through Africa, and never record anything half so wonderful. He found Pompey here and Sambo there; but Pompey and Sambo were so very much like themselves and other people, that they were not worth discovering at all. Was it the correct thing, he asked in all seriousness, to engage a German band to play up the "March of the Chamaleon Men" in welcome of such a traveller as that? And what was the good of setting Snares on the Alert, if the only result was the Discovery that water froze, and ice was hard? A (n)ice story that. If they could only have caught a Pole then it would have been another matter; but he was afraid that the Arctic folks were not up to trap. Perhaps if they had used a little (bird)-lime water, they might not have been served so scurvy a trick.

But this was a digression. What he wanted to do was to restitute. He desired to restore the famous old geographers of whom he had spoken on the pinnacle of fame to which they rightly belonged, and from which a pigmeian jealousy had not altogether vainly attempted to hurl them. Let any one fairly compare the voyages of a Sinbad, a Gulliver, or a Munchausen with those of any modern, whatever position he might fill, or whatever name he might bear; however well he might Speke, or how much he might be disposed to Grant; whether he had been a Butler, or, in the language of the poet, raised the chivalrous war-cry of the geographical Derby—

"On, Stanley, on."

What, he asked, was the Dodo compared with the Roc? the Diamond Fields to the Diamond Valley? the Pallycrusty Sea to the Flying Island? What were the Huskymaws to the Anthropophagi? the Phanteas to the Brobdingnagians? What was a Tasmanian Devil to a Lapland Witch? a Plattypuss to the dignified White Cat? What were all the Aborigines in the world—

creatures so common that they were to be found in every land—to the genuine Lilliputians? What was a Cyclone to a Glumm or a Gawry? Finally, what was a Gorilla to a Houynhymn? These were serious questions, questions pregnant with the deepest interests of the science of geographical discovery; and whoso studied them deeply, and gave his days and nights to the volumes of the learned authors in whose pages they were treated, would soon learn how it was that too many Cooks had spoiled the geographical broth, and had reduced geographical research to the dead level of the great desert of Sarah, which everybody who knew Sarah knew was very low indeed. Had it not been for the glorious invention of printing by Mr. Gladstone, and for the fact that a few ardent spirits—like his celebrated relative Jules, whose "Voyage into the Interior of the Earth" by the Sub-Wealden Bore, was one of the most remarkable events of the century—did pursue the study on the old lines, geography would, ere this, have been altogether supplanted by gehognosigh, of which the most eminent professors of the present day had immigrated from America under the guise of Know-nothings. There was, of course, a cause for all this. As that brave old German Polony said in the play—

> "This effect defective comes by cause."

The cause was two. It was not all the fault of the would-be explorers of the present day. They were not certainly as adventurous as they might be; but it was only fair to say that they laboured under some special disadvantages. One of these was the discovery of the mariner's compass. The hill of loadstone was well known to have wrecked one of Sinbad's most valuable ships; and everybody who pretended to the slightest knowledge of geography was aware that to the same cause Peter Wilkins owed his misfortunes. The fact was that before the discovery of the mariner's compass people went where they liked. Now they always went by the compass. The compass led them by the nose, especially if, as some did, "they fetched a great compass" (which always, like a boomerang, brought them back to the same place), and they could not get out of the beaten track. Nor was this all. Anybody who looked at an old-fashioned map would see that the ancient geographers used to give all the scope they could for plain sailing. All was open and above board. If the catch of fish was likely to be considerable in any part of the ocean, there the lively effigies of the aforesaid fishes were set forth. This, however, was a digression into which he had been led by his national liking for red herring. The special point he had in view was this. In the old maps they saw none of those absurd devices, called lines of latitude and longitude, which were greater hindrances to the progress of true adventure and discovery than even the compass. The Bellman and his crew (and he rejoiced to recognise in the Bellman an explorer worthy of the days of old), in the *Hunting of the Snark*, had nearly hit upon the truth. They would all remember the eloquent and soul-stirring lines—

> "'What's the good of Mercator's north poles and equators,
> Tropics, zones, and meridian lines?'
> So the Bellman would cry. And the crew would reply,
> 'They are only conventional signs.'"

The mischief however was that they were not merely conventional; they were absolute and direct barriers to progress. How could any man be expected to make a satisfactory voyage if every 69½ miles or so he had to cross one of these things. And if it was bad enough on land it was far worse on sea. His maritime friends told him that but for the introduction of steam power it would be absolutely impossible to surmount these obstacles, if the weather happened to be at all windy. They were infinitely worse than toll-bars. The equatorial bulge was bad enough; but when these Bulgarian horrors were so multiplied all over the fair face of the earth, seaming it in this most unseemly manner, it was time for the Red Lions to rise in their majesty, and tell the people who were responsible for these things that they should not be.

The discussion which followed the paper was of a very lively character. M. DOO SHALLOW said the remarks of his Dutch friend were too deep for him, and that he should stick by his gorilla, any more attacks upon whom would put up his monkey. A gentleman, who gave his name as "PARALLAX," thereby compelling the Secretary to consult his dictionary, declared that that was the happiest moment of his life. He had never met anybody before whose views on these subjects so nearly approached to his own. If the learned professor had not indulged in snuff to such an extent he should have been happy to embrace him as well as the opportunity. However, the practice was not wholly to be discommended, since it afforded ocular proof that Mein Herr was up to that necessary article. By way of bringing the question to a practical issue, Mr. PARALLAX begged to propose a couple of resolutions. First, that the use of the mariner's compass should be made penal, and that in order to remedy the slight inconvenience which might thence arise, an Act of Parliament should be passed to render the stars compulsorily visible every night, owners of smoky chimneys to be fined; secondly, that all lines of latitude and longitude should at once be taken up, except those which might be rendered available for telegraphic purposes, bridges over which should be provided wherever required. These resolutions were seconded with much effusion by a young cadet from the *Britannia*, who pointed out, with great force, how much their adoption would simplify the practice of navigation; and had they been put would undoubtedly have been carried. The learned author of the paper, however, who had been observed to be looking under his desk at frequent intervals, here announced that as an ardent spiritualist, after citing, as he had done, the discoveries of Sinbad, Gulliver, and their compeers, he had desired to strengthen the force of his observations by a resort to spiritual aid. He was happy to observe that the spirits were present—they were in fact only under the table, and he should have much pleasure in introducing them.

Here the learned professor again stooped beneath the mahogany, whence there at once proceeded a gurgling noise of so mysterious and thrilling a nature, that the audience, not wishing that the restitution of intelligences so long decayed should be carried to the point of personal contact, rushed from the room, and we with them.

P. S.—Some hours afterwards the learned professor was discovered on the platform insensible; but the fact that there was found beneath the table an empty jar, labelled "Plymouth Gin," has caused some doubt to be entertained as to whether the hurried exit of his hearers did not partake somewhat of an evasion of proffered hospitality, which compelled the professor to keep to himself the spirits he was ready to share. We much regret therefore that we were unable to remain, and enjoy his "flow of spirit."

Geology. C.W.C.

ROCMETOSLEP.

From the Geographical Section the Committee rushed to the Geological Department of the Association.

The papers communicated to this section were very variable in their character. The first that we heard was on some recently-discovered egg-shells, from the island of Tristram de Canon, supposed to be those of the extinct Roc, by Professor ONION.

The paper was certainly very interesting; but unfortunately the style of the author was very prosy, and had a tendency to induce somnolence, the more so as his descriptions of the specimens were very long and very dry. The Professor illustrated his account of the bird that was supposed to have laid the eggs by the exhibition of an ostrich, which he had borrowed from the Zoological Gardens. The unusual circumstance of the bird being present for some time attracted attention, but the quiet and sedentary habits of the specimen made it soon cease to be an object of interest. Shortly afterwards the President of the section began to exhibit signs of weariness, and most of the audience, using that freedom which is a peculiarity of the meetings of the Skittish Association, withdrew by degrees, leaving Professor Onion to proceed with his paper to the bitter end. First he exhibited one bone of the fossil bird, and then another, and then putting the two together made part of a skeleton—very like a whale. By the time the Professor finished reading the audience were all in slumber, but happily were wakened by a conflict between him and the ostrich.

Like all the rest of the company, the learned and indefatigable Secretary had fallen asleep, resting, as was not unusual with him, his head upon his arms on the desk in front, so that no one might know whether he was sleeping or thinking. The poor bird, not having seen an egg since he was stolen from his native desert, mistook the Secretary's head, as it lay on his arms, for one, and sitting on it would not be driven away, determined to hatch it, or die in the attempt. And it is possible the effort might have succeeded had not the Professor finished his reading in time to come to the rescue; for symptoms of softening of the internal structure were already apparent in the dewy eyes and bewildered expression of the Secretary's countenance when he awoke.

DISCOVERIES IN THE LAMORNA CAVE.

The next paper in this section was one of remarkable ability and interest, especially to the anthropophagi present. It was on "the Discovery of some Apostles' Bones" in the cave-earth of Lamorna Cavern, at Devil's Point.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Grovehed) gave an account of this important discovery in his usual attractive manner, having large and conspicuous diagrams showing the plan of the cave and the manner in which he proceeded in the research.

He said that his attention was first drawn to the possibility that objects of interest might be found in this cavern by a Buddhist missionary, the Rev. Mr. McOwslip. In the pronunciation of this name he particularly wished to draw attention to the fact that there was no "H" in it. He mentioned this because the name was often pronounced McHowslip; and he had seen it spelt so in the writings of persons who ought to have known better.

As he was saying, his attention was drawn to this particular cave by the writings of his learned friend, if he might be permitted to call him so, of which he had in his possession some thirty or forty volumes in very small manuscript. He had read every word of them; and it was his intention to publish them as a valuable communication, without even correcting his errors, which were abundant, although he was quite certain no one else would ever read them. But that was no business of his; he had a duty to perform to his friend, and although McOwslip was dead before he had the pleasure of making his acquaintance, the more reason that he should look after his bones. The Rev. Mr. McOwslip, by a species of inductive reasoning, came to the conclusion that the name of the promontory known as Devil's Point had a religious signification; that the root of the word was to be found in the Greek Θεὸς; the Latin, Deus. He hence felt irresistibly impelled to believe that in the cave would be found the bones of the pre-historic Christian martyrs. This was also pointed to by the name Lamorna.

Mr. Grovehed proceeded: With this idea in his head, my reverend and learned friend made several explorations at various times—with the point of his umbrella when the weather was wet, while at others he used his walking-stick. He found the most useful implement to be his pocket-knife; but having broken three of these in as many months, he was compelled to resort to the use of a large nail. Having made several very interesting discoveries, and brought to light some bones that were evidently of some race distinct from the recent inhabitants of these realms, he laid them before the Geological Society of London.

Unfortunately for Mr. McOwslip, who was one of the most unsectarian men in the world, the Society was at that time under decidedly Low Church influences. Having just published an account of the Deluge by the Bishop of Westminster, at a considerable expense and with great eclat, the Society were very loth to believe that the Deluge could be diluted. This would have been such an inundation of all the fundamental principles of what ought to be true that they shook their heads, and declined Mr. McOwslip's bones, recommending them to be forwarded to the Christy Minstrels. Moreover coming, as the information did, from a missionary source, the Society felt that there was a wholesale attempt at their conversion, and that it became them as a Protestant body to be very sceptical. The bones were returned with thanks, and the assurance to the Rev. Mr. McOwslip that he was very much mistaken. That if he found them in the cave they could not be bones, and that if they were bones he could not have found them in the cave.

You may imagine, gentlemen (continued the Lecturer) with what delight I was induced to follow in the steps of the worthy and neglected McOwslip. I was therefore determined to continue his researches into the history of this important cave, with all the minuteness and care that are consistent with the character of modern scientific investigation. My first duty was to get permission from the Duchy authorities, as owners of the foreshore, to grant me the sole and exclusive right of examining the cave, and retaining for my own use such bones, implements, crosses, crosiers, coffins, or other things, whether in bone or stone, as I might find, not excluding pottery. I also had the assistance of my kind friend, the member for the borough, who is always so ready to do anyone a kindness when it gives him no trouble. His help, as it was on the eve of a general election, was granted readily, on condition that I had a door erected, and a lock and key of Chubb's make put on it, for the purpose of precluding the curious and ignorant visitors from chipping off bits of stone, diminishing the extent of the deposit in the neighbourhood, and so, by destroying the line of the foreshore, altering the course of the Gulf Stream as it flowed in and out of the harbour, to the detriment of the shipping.

This having been accomplished, my next plan of proceeding was to purchase a lantern, and a tinder-box with flint and steel. These latter I was not able to procure, and was compelled to put up with Jönkopings Tändsticker, of which my workmen sadly complained because they were always damp, until I had those that light only on the box. I then bought six pennyworth of hempen twine, known as three-strand cord. My next effort was to secure two or three trustworthy and confidential navvies, in which after considerable difficulty and delay I succeeded: Thomas Snooks, Hannibal Crago, and Edward Jenkins, for whose services I wish to bear testimony and record my especial thanks.

It was on Wednesday, the 16th of April, in the year 1875, that I first commenced operations as follows: I drew a line very exactly through the centre of the cave; that is, from the entrance to the farthest extremity. Having secured this, I placed another at right angles with it, near the equator of the cave, on a level with the floor. These two lines were considered the fundamental lines of all my other measurements; and whenever I state any distance on the right or left, the measurement is taken from these points in feet and inches. It was so seldom that I found it necessary to calculate the fractions of an inch, that for simplicity I have omitted them in my tabulated report. By the compass I found that the direction of the central line ran exactly two degrees to the east of north-east and south-east; and that above the level of the sea the floor of the cave was 242 feet 8¼ inches at high water; at low water it was 16 feet more, at spring tides. The cave at the entrance was 5 feet 8½ inches in height, 4 feet 1 inch wide at the base, 4 feet 6 inches at 3 feet from the ground, after which it gradually lessened to an acute arch. Immediately within the entrance the cave rose to the height of 14½ feet, and widened to 6 feet on either side of the central line. About 10 feet from the entrance the roof depressed to 4¼ feet. This space I have called, for the sake of distinction, the peristol,* or entrance-chamber. Beyond this entrance-chamber the roof again mounted on the left to the height of 22 feet 10 inches. On the right the roof was not so high, not more than 12 feet at the most. The two were separated by an invisible ridge. I determined to call one the southern chamber, and the other the western chamber.

I now proceeded to remove very carefully all the material on the surface of the floor. This consisted of decarbonised vitrine, contained many veins of blue earth of a remarkably gritty nature, and had a considerable resemblance to ashes of tobacco, from which we were induced to believe that the Rev. Mr. McOwslip was a great smoker, and that he was probably in the habit of smoking during his excavations. After carefully collecting all the material we could find, I had it dried in an oven, and then sifted. I found in it the remains of four blades of pocket-knives, three broken at the haft, the other broken near the middle; two twisted nails, four brad awls, and three ferules of a stick or umbrella—evidence, no doubt, of the Rev. Mr. Mc Owslip's industry and zeal. I also found the bowls of two tobacco pipes, and a small-tooth comb.

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* Query peris' stall, "the abode of the peris." This seems to indicate that the cave may have been a Mithraic temple.

Having removed all the vitrine and blue clay, which I call the surface soil or blue clay bed, I had the floor swept and garnished; and after it was made perfectly clean, so that nothing from the surface might by any chance fall into and be mingled with the material below, I had erected a small circular saw, which, in order to save the expense of a steam-engine, was worked by a foot pedal. This revolving at the rate of 324 times to the minute enabled me to cut through the floor with considerable expedition. In this manner I soon had a section of the floor, which consisted of lime-ash, such as is still occasionally used for cottage kitchen floors, when beneath it I saw the ends of two enormous bones of a species different from any recognizable at the present day. Having placed a string right across the centre of the space removed, I had a second section cut west, as some other bones were underlying the floor in that direction, and I was thus soon enabled to expose the entire accumulation. I would not allow either of my assistants to touch them, fearing that the bones might be displaced; for the value of enquiries of this kind depends more upon the exact position that one bone occupies in relation to the others, than in the discovery of any number of bones of any sort or kind whatever.

On my knees then, I carefully removed with my own hands all the earth that was collected round the bones, and I gradually unfolded a most valuable and interesting discovery. Observing a small bone lying in contact with others (therefore feeling certain that I had in this strong evidence that if the bones belonged to the same part of the body, they must have been brought thither previous to the decomposition of the body), I sent the specimen as I found it to my distinguished friend Professor Rolestone, who unhesitatingly pronounced the small bone in contact with the knee-joint to be *Patella vulgaris* of a similar form to that at present existing, and that the others were evidently the bones of children of from three to eight years of age; while, judging from the slender character of the bones of one skeleton as compared with the other, one was that of a girl, the other that of a boy.

Seeing that the arm-bones of one lay over the neck vertebræ of the other, as if they were in the act of embracing, or sleeping in each others' arms, the thought flashed upon me suddenly, before I was backed by Professor Rolestone—Here are the remains of the "Babes in the Wood." Being anxious to have the point clearly settled beyond dispute, I carefully removed, still with my own hands, a small quantity of the earthy material that lay on the bones, and sent it to Professor Squint to examine microscopically, without saying where I obtained it from; and I received in a few days the information that it was the result of decomposed leaves of the bramble, with some dried blackberries, mixed with a few ash-leaves, and one of the walnut-tree. As trees of all these species grow in the immediate neighbourhood, this proves conclusively that the earth that covered the bones consisted of the disintegrated leaves that the birds collected and brought there.

This important discovery, bearing so closely upon pre-historic facts, determined me to examine with greater care, if possible, the whole of the *debris*, or earth, which I call the intermediate or brown earth bed. I am happy to say that my caution received its reward; for after three weeks of careful and close attention I found one small bone, evidently that of a bird, but all that I could do I was not able to find any more. This bone I carefully packed in the best cotton wool, and forwarded to the eminent ornithologer, Professor P. Cock. He, with his usual courtesy, informed me by return of post that it was the *humerus*, or funny bone, of a cock robin. Near where this interesting bone was found I procured a small piece of flint, pointed at one extremity, flat on one side, and rubbed on the other. This I forwarded to the equally eminent ethnologist, Professor Witley, and he informed me without hesitation that it was a flint implement of the flake type, and was probably used as an arrow-head. Could evidence be more complete ? Evidently the poor bird, after covering the babes with leaves collected for the purpose, was shot by some inhuman monster, probably the uncle, come to gloat over the murders he had committed.

I forgot to mention that, corresponding with the extremity of the flint implement, was an abrasion of the bone, which, upon microscopic examination, was demonstrated by Professor Mason to have been produced before death.

Pursuing these researches further, I had the intermediate bed entirely removed, and the floor on which it rested washed and scoured (the soap used was the best Millbay, without other words), so as to be quite certain that nothing could find its way to a lower level, and so vitiate the value of the evidence.

Two series of lines, consisting of twine of the same quality as that previously used, were drawn running north-east and south-west, and at right angles, and laid in the nadir of the upper fundamental lines about 18 inches. It was not without some difficulty that I could then bring my circular saw into use, but after some delay and considerable expense I managed to succeed in cutting through a mass of Portland concrete of irregular thickness and of considerable hardness. So hard was the material that the points or teeth of the saw had to be repeatedly filed and sharpened, and it was only by following the plan adopted by Hannibal, the engineer of the Mont Cannæ Tunnel, of pouring a quantity of vinegar into the incisions as they were made, that we were enabled to cut through this stickmetight floor at all. I am delighted to say that our perseverance had its reward. Immediately beneath the stickmetight was a hollow space. This appeared to be very remarkable, seeing that every other place was closely packed. Turning up the floor so as to bring the lower surface of it into view, I saw impressed upon it the form of a rude cross, evidently made of unhewn wood, while the cross-pieces were of different depths, and the shaft showed that the two were not morticed together, but were tied by some strips of bark, with which certain markings appeared to correspond. I now directed my men to work very carefully, and if they saw anything during my absence to communicate with me immediately.

I think it was a fortnight after this, that being in the North of England, where I was engaged to give a course of lectures on the "Symbolism of Kittley Winks,' I received a telegram from my invaluable assistant, Hannibal Crago, informing me that he had seen the tip of what he thought was a bone or something of that kind. Without stopping to finish my lecture I hastened immediately by limited mail and proceeded directly to the spot, and saw, as Hannibal Crago said, the tip of a bone. My excellent assistants had done nothing since they made the discovery to alter the position of things, but had sat watching the bone to see that nothing disturbed it, for which cautious behaviour they were allowed a couple of gallons of ale every time they found anything. To this hospitable liberality of mine, no doubt, many of the discoveries are due.

I had the mass of material removed to my study, and on carefully removing some of the outer portions I found, what on further examination proved to be a bone thimble. The top was worn through on one side, showing that it had been much used, and a rim round the bottom was engraved with hieroglyphics, which, upon being submitted to the Rev. Mr. Cawlinson, enabled him to determine the thimble as having belonged to Cleopatra, a circumstance of considerable interest, as, taken in conjunction with her needle found elsewhere, it demonstrates the approximation of East and West, and corroborates the general opinion of Cleopatra's industrious habits.

This discovery convinced me that I was approaching some point of valuable interest in the history of the cave. I therefore proceeded with the greatest caution, and soon came upon a portion of a long bone, evidently a femur of peculiar shape. Carefully breaking down the mass a little more, I found some vertebræ, but could not determine whether they were human or inhuman. I imagined the former from their shape, and the latter from their size. A little more research rewarded me for my pains with this. [Here the learned Secretary held up an object that looked wonderfully like a turnip-lantern from which the candle was gone, but which he said was a human skull of the Dolly-type.]

Nor was this all. Lying just beneath the oxy-capital region, one end being under it, was what I first took to be a bone, but afterwards found to be a portion of wood, the sides of which had evidently been hewn by some blunt instrument, such as a flint flake or stone hatchet. Near this, evidently being parts of the same, were other fragments, clearly showing that they once formed one long rod. On these several fragments I found what I thought were certain hieroglyphic markings. I had them carefully packed in cotton wool, and sent a part each to four separate eminent philologists to determine the character of the markings. Professor Cawlinson pronounced them to be cuneiform characters of the Assyrian type, but could not decipher them, as he had mislaid his dictionary. Dr. Hutchinson, ϕ.R.S., the author of a work on the *Vulgar Bone Ornaments*, declared them to be oghams of an early Celtic writing, of a kind similar to those existing on the Fardel Stone in the British Museum. It is true that he could not exactly read them, because all his works of reference were lent to a friend; but he thought that with little doubt they might be read if the fleas could be determined. Professor Max Gregor, the celebrated Hungarian, declared that it was Sanscrit of an early date; that is, *sans* without, *script* writing, this being one of the best

evidences that he had met with of the remains of an unwritten language—a circumstance that proves the great antiquity of the inscription, since it was carved within the cave previous to writing-letters existing. Professor Max Gregor, with the assistance of the late Dr. Bannister's *Glossary of Cornish Names,* interpreted the inscription on the fragment sent to him to be the word "Wenna." This is highly important, since it is known that Wenna is the name of a pre-historic Cornish Christian saint, who came over to Cornwall in the time of Pirran; that he belonged to the ancient Gadshillick people, and for want of better accommodation, at a time when houses were scarce and lodgings probably expensive, lived in this cave, as its name indicates.*

The fourth was submitted to Mr. John Willet, the very intelligent landlord of the "Maypole Inn," who is known to have had great experience. He after very considerable contemplation, however, candidly admitted his inability to decipher the fragment, but thought that the inscription was of a character analogous to the markings recently brought to light by Mr. Spark Harrison from the Cissbury pits, and suggested that they should be submitted to that gentleman for his opinion.

But I was much put out by one of my invaluable assistants, who being a bit of a wag in his way, tied the four pieces of wood together side by side, and because the lines of one accidentally corresponded with those on the others, which gave them the appearance as if they were parts of one flat piece of board, would have it that the accompanying figure was the true representation of the inscription on this rude wood-cut memorial. I discharged him on the spot for daring to make a joke of science; but as he declared that he would tell every-

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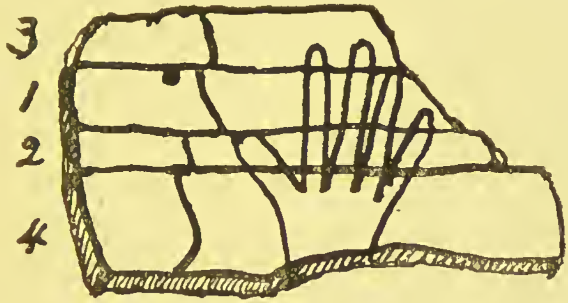
* "La Morna = Morwenna's enclosure," Bannister's *Glossary.*



body he met with what he had discovered, I determined to take him on again, as science might suffer from being wrongly interpreted and misrepresented.

This very interesting and valuable discovery has encouraged me to go to the Society for a grant of money, to enable me to employ a further staff, in order to penetrate to the farthest recesses of the cavern, feeling assured that if we could but search below the glacial bed, of which we have presumptive evidence in the scratches on the sides of the entrance, we may yet be enabled to verify the Rev. Mr. McOwslip's opinion that this cavern is the resting-place of apostles' bones.

On the completion of the lecture the CHAIRMAN said that the thanks of the section were due to their indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Grovehed, for the zeal and interest that he had displayed in bringing these facts to light. If he had done no more than discover the remains of the *Babes in the Wood* he had done a great thing. That which was often believed to be a fable was now demonstrated beyond all doubt to be a fact. The Chairman hoped that these discoveries would be a stimulus for others to follow out similar researches in other places. He had no doubt that in the South of France, or in some of the caves of Switzerland, careful exploration would bring to light the bones of William Tell; and he thought that it was a matter much to be regretted that in the *Challenger* expedition there was not a staff of troglodytæ to search the caverns of various localities. Careful dredging might also have thrown considerable light on the habits of mermen. At present they had only one example of these curious creatures—that dredged by Professor Mackintosh off St. Andrews, which those who knew no better at first took for a

starfish. The illustration would show the absurdity of that idea. It was his intention, at the proper time and place, to urge upon Government the desirability of sending out an expedition to the island of Juan Fernandez, with the avowed object of bringing to light the remains of Robinson Crusoe.

These remarks called forth considerable expressions of approval from the audience, after which one gentleman, whose name we could not learn, asked the Secretary what he thought might be the probable cost of these further excavations, and why he anticipated any greater results beneath the glaciers than below the stickmetight, which from its density and hardness it must be clear to any observant mind, there was no getting out of when once in, unless it were cut through by some external agent.

The SECRETARY thought that the whole excavation down to the glacial bed, or what might be called with propriety the arctic regions, could be done, if due economy were practised, for about £3,050 14s. 2d. It might be 2s. 6d. or 3s., or 3s. 6d. more; but when he got below that bed he could not form any idea, as the changes in the character of the deposit and material might be very different, and therefore he had given no consideration to the subject. He certainly, however, hoped great things, as the climate before the glacial era was warm. There was evidence that in this country the palm trees and cocoa-nuts and other tropical plants abounded; and as Devonshire was so beautiful now, what must it have been then?

We can hardly picture to ourselves (he said) the wonderful county that Devonshire then was. Fancy Dartmoor, lovely as it is now in this limp climate, with a perpetual sunshine, palm trees on every tor, dates in profusion for the chronologist, and cocoa-nuts in abundance with the fathers of the human race feasting on them, though neither are worth the trouble of gathering. Oranges, grapes, and all such fruits then grew in rich abundance; and now all these things are to be found beneath the glacial bed. Is there anyone who knows where Paradise was? I make bold to say there is not. Then why, when Devonshire possessed this lovely climate, with palm trees and pomegranates in abundance, why might not Paradise be here as well as anywhere else? Do we not read that in the days of Diodorus Siculus this island had two seasons, and that it was thence called the Casterides, whence the term of castors for the vessels which contain the season of pepper, while the name still exists in Castor on Dartmoor. If it was so warm that it had two seasons, why might it not have had a perpetual summer in the days before devolution? The change can easily be accounted for by the variation of the axes of the earth, when they got blunt from use and required to be ground; for there is no doubt but that, by the existence of the Pole and the Gulf Stream, we could have anything that was required. Therefore there is every reason to believe that the hypothesis of the Rev. Mr. McOwslip was right, and that beneath the glacial bed we shall come upon the apostles' bones.

A Mr. FERGUS, one who is well-known to have a small feud with the Secretary, here rose, and said that through the kindness of the Secretary he had had an opportunity of examining the MSS., and he contended that though the writing of Mr. McOwslip was not very legible, his words were, not that he had discovered apostles' bones, but *fossil bones.* This explanation however was so absurd that the entire audience was against him.

Mr. GRIGGS, one of the audience, would like to ask the Secretary before they passed to another subject, how it was that the bones of the children were found in a cave, seeing that they died in a wood, where they were covered over with leaves by the birds.

The SECRETARY said this was a very proper question, and a significant one. The facts were these, that the land at that time stood at a higher level with regard to the sea, and that trees grew as a forest all round the kingdom, as might be seen from the remains of stumps and roots at low-water mark to this day. The rock in which the cave stood being a prominent object, and surrounded by trees, became a "hoar rock in a wood." The children, wandering far and near, looking for blackberries, took shelter by night in this cave, where the sweet innocents died. The birds saw them go in, and followed them. It was a very remarkable fact, that while Sir Charles Lyell, in his *Principles of Geology*, insisted that denudation and subsidence of land should take place everywhere along our southern and western coast, he made an exception in favour of a small bit at this point. "Thus we see it remaining precisely in the same condition it was in the days of Diodorus Siculus; that is, 4000 years ago. The reason is quite clear. Without this it would not be, as it undoubtedly is, the Ictis of the pre-historic times, as recorded by Herodotus. It is an interesting spot, and has been reserved by Sir Charles accordingly for this purpose."

Keymystery.

A SAD SIGHT.

We now approach a branch of our investigations upon which it is too painful to dwell at length. Suffice it to say that were we not convinced that the section in which such proceedings took place is, for reasons hereafter assigned, so unpopular that its doings are likely to cause little harm, we should have to condemn the Skittish Association altogether. Seeing one or two people coming out of a door, yawning heavily, we were inductively led to consider that a scientific lecture must be on within. On enquiry this was said to be the case, and we were informed that it was the "Key-Mystery" section. We entered, and saw a sad sight. A young man, with a black board, was teaching about twenty old gentlemen how to spell—men with grey heads (when they were not bald), and frequent spectacles. Apart from the reflection that these poor creatures must have passed a weary and monotonous existence from the want of School Boards in their younger days, we should have been delighted to see this thirst for and this desire to impart knowledge, had it not been for the discovery that the man with the black board was taking the unfortunate creatures in. He stated that lead was PLUMB; that quicksilver was spelt HG., but silver AG.; that copper was CU, and gold AU; iron FER, and iron rust FERRO; while flint and steel were SI and FERC. Struck dumb with astonishment, we could not interrupt his heterodox orthography until he went on to say that while water was HO, gin and water was only H.

Our VICE then waggishly enquired whether the lecturer had ever heard of B. and S.? To this the Man at the black board, whose name, we regret to say, we could not definitely ascertain, but who was said to be called Biglie, rejoined that that showed the speaker's ignorance. He meant AL and NAOCOHO.

The VICE meant nothing of the sort. Brandy and Soda was too good a thing to be called by any such outlandish name; and if the professor did not discontinue this systematic debauchery of the orthographic morals of the poor old people whom he was deluding, the School Board messenger would very soon clear him out.

The LECTURER did not care for an army of School Board messengers, nor for the Boards themselves into the bargain. He had lots of friends in high society who would back him up—Maggy Nesium, Chloe Reen, Flo Reen, Molly Denham, Sal Volatilly, Tilly Urium, Ann Timmony, Nick Hill, Harry Dium, Polly Dium, and many others; and he was not going to stand any humbug. If the lesson was interrupted any more, he should send for the police.

Here the CHAIRMAN interfered, and stated that he wished to throw oil on the troubled waters. The Professor muttered that that would not mix; but heedless of the interruption, our leader went on to say that nothing but a conscientious desire to protect the minds of his aged friends before him led him to interfere. In the name of humanity, he protested against age being treated with such irreverence; and if he had the lecturer in his school he would try what a little *argumentum baculinum* would effect.

The LECTURER said that was enough of this nonsense. The deputation had better hook it if they didn't want to be methylated. If he had his own way, he would d—— phlogisticate the lot.

Such profanity could not be borne; and we rose to leave the room, while the Lecturer, now raving with rage, poured forth a perfect torrent of "strange oaths," of which, fortunately, we only distinguished a few words—the shortest, and therefore the least offensive, being "tetraferrictrioxyhexahydrate;" "isopropylicalcoho;" "methytlethyltriphenyltriamyl;" "methenetetrethylphospharsoniumtetrhydride;" and "jawlheghuderhidhanstoebhadrhubbage." We should certainly have taken steps, under Lord Campbell's Act, for we knew that language that sounded so badly must be equally evil in meaning, though we could not understand it—had we not ascertained on enquiry that this was a section which, by a wise precaution, the Association provided for the lunatics who attend its meetings, sometimes in considerable numbers, attracting them by peculiar smells, and who, if this special provision were not made for them, would be scattered over the other sections, to the annoyance of decent people.

Physic.

THE COMET MANUFACTURE.

In the Mathematical and Physical Section Professor Sir JOHN BURCHALL, M.D., communicated a very interesting and valuable paper on the Irregularities of Alley's Comet; and as it was generally known that he intended manufacturing a comet, according to the recently published prescription as given by Professor Tindle, the hall was crowded.

The LECTURER said that all the known and unknown irregularities of Alley's comet were due to the imperious disposition of the god Jupiter, who was a very great disturber of comets, and consequently gave an enormous amount of trouble to calculators. Saturn also was not without a finger in the pie. This was supposed to arise from the circumstance that comets were generally of such a light and frivolous character that almost any heavenly body that they approached was quite sufficient to lead them into temptation, and divert them from their paths. Consequently they could never pass by Jupiter or Saturn without running up against them, or at all events coming near enough to see what they were about, which was a species of curiosity that heavenly bodies were not accustomed to, and resented accordingly.

There are now (continued the lecturer) thirteen comets of less than seven years period, and of these ten have their Ophelia just beyond the orbit of Jupiter, a circumstance that in itself is very likely to be a cause of disturbance when that deity approaches within telegraphic communication. Hunck's, who is a very cautious individual, has his Ophelia at a safe distance, and it appears that he is the only one who has. For the conclusion now come to is, that all, or nearly all, short period comets have been introduced into the solar system through the influence of Jupiter himself. Formerly he was given to making thunderbolts, till he almost frightened folks out of their wits; but as intelligence increased with the introduction of electricity, these old thunderbolts diminished in power as well as in number. This probably arose from a strike in the workshops of Vulcan; and whatever may be the cause, it is very doubtful now if Vulcan's establishment continues to exist at all or not, or whether he has not gone into the India-rubber trade. Dr. Lescarbault says that he saw him on the 26th March, 1859, and Mr. Summers on March 20th, 1862, but this requires confirmation; for who can believe people whose names one never heard of before. Recently however Professor Rudolph Wolf, Director of the Observatory at Zurich, in a letter to Le Verrier, dated August 26th, 1876, says that Weber de Pekeloh, so well-known for his "Observations on the

Judicial Light," on the 4th of April, or three days after Fool's-day, 1876, at 4h. 25m. M.T., at Berlin, saw Vulcan standing right in the sunlight; and both he and Julius Schmidt, at Athens, declare that he was not there the day before or the next morning. It would therefore appear very much as if he was an absconding bankrupt, and only appeared out for short intervals for the sake of the air, when least expected. All astronomers are therefore particularly requested to keep their eye on him, and run him in on the first favourable opportunity. This, according to Le Verrier, is likely to occur any 28 days, since all the rest of the time he is hiding behind the moon.

Hence, in consequence of the failure of Vulcan, Jupiter has given up thunderbolts as too expensive, or more probably because, like the old Brown Bess, they have been rendered obsolete by modern improvements. He has now taken to making comets according to the Tindle patent, as with these he can produce a large amount of effect with a small amount of material. They amuse him also, if we may judge by the way the comet known as Mdlle. Lexell behaved under his sway. She was first introduced to us in 1770, and Messier gave his word of honour that she did not agree with any of the others that had appeared before—a circumstance that rather looked as if she were of a quarrelsome disposition. However, she was admitted to the solar stage, and waltzed round Venus and Jupiter in an eclipse in about five and a half years; consequently her birthday came only once in that time

—a fact that demonstrates that the heavenly bodies do not grow old so fast as earthly ones. This is a circumstance on which due weight is not sufficiently laid by our clergy, or otherwise ladies would not exhibit such a reluctance to give up short years for long ones. Mdlle. Lexell at first went very decorously, travelling as a "go-between" for Jupiter and Venus; but Jupiter attracted her so near him once, that Venus declared that if she did it again she should never come back. And this turned out to be true; for in 1779 she, as predicted by the astronomer after whom she was named, was so attracted by Jupiter, that she was never seen afterwards; and it is generally supposed that she was ashamed to show her face to Venus again, who declared that she would never give her a character, except that of a brazen-faced, volatile hussy.

Here is quite a new fact. Here we seem to have quite a sort of tame comet, keeping within bounds and within call. Of course her regular return was watched for with eagerness, but alas, she never made her appearance again. At her expected return in 1776 her conduct was accounted for, as owing to the relative situations of the earth, sun, and comet, she could not have been visible; but in 1781 there was no excuse, and her best friends began to be uneasy about her goings on, and puzzled at her conduct. They searched for her a long time in vain, but at last found that the poor comet had got bewildered. She very rashly and most unguardedly rushed into the immediate sphere of Jupiter's attraction; in fact she intruded herself an uninvited guest into his family circle. She actually pushed herself inside Jupiter's fourth satellite (who could stand that?), and would have come nearer; but the indecorous speed at which she forced herself into his company so aroused the whole group that she was sent to the right about. It was some time, however, before she could be induced to leave, or, I should rather say, subdue the influence that Jupiter's attraction had for her; and even when she succeeded in getting away she was not able to find her former orbit. Hence poor Lexell having once gone wrong has since been left a wanderer, with no friend to guide or lead her back to the line of rectitude. Thus in the skies, as well as on earth, there is no mercy for those who once stray from the correct path of duty.

So far all is clear enough. But people began to ask how, being kept, as Miss Fayes comet was, within bounds, (and never allowed to go longer than five and half years before she came back again) was it she had never been seen before 1843? Here again it appears that Jupiter is accountable. Jupiter and Fayes had occasionally met before, and as Fayes travelled her orbit twice in eleven years and three months, and Jupiter his once in eleven years and ten months, they naturally met in every other revolution, in some out-of-the-way corner, when Fayes, seeing Jupiter in the distance, increased her speed in the most unladylike but womanly manner, like a comet of the period, and so made his acquaintance. This appears to be so far correct that by tracing back Fayes movements for two revolutions in her ellipse, and Jupiter rather less than one in his circle, it is clearly proved that before 1767 this unhappy comet had been moving in a different circle in society—one of much larger dimensions; that Jupiter met with her, and, carrying on his old tricks, seized upon her there and then, and flung her as it were into the solar system; where after making two visits to the sun, Jupiter finding that his influence over her was known, and the place becoming too hot for her, again seized her, and in a cowardly fashion threw her into space, where perhaps she may be quietly circulating to this day. This conduct of Jupiter's is highly reprehensible, and he appears to be a regular stumbling-block in the way of comets. I think that Inspector Annis ought to have his attention drawn to him.

After he had fully explained the courses of all known, and some unknown comets, the Lecturer demonstrated the true nature and condition of these heavenly bodies by proceeding to make one upon the latest receipt given by Professor Tindle, which is as follows—

"℞ Iodidi Allyli ℥i.

"Convert into vapour by electric heat; apply light to head, and produce actinic cloud of magnitude and luminosity of Donati's comet."

The Professor explained that beyond our atmosphere there was empty space, full of subtle material that scientific men called ether, simply because they did not know what else to call it. That it belonged to the Peace Society and offered no resistance to anybody travelling through it, though if they did not mind they might lose their way, as it was perfectly dark beyond the luminosity of the atmosphere. This he showed by certain experiments. He took a hollow tube of glass and filled it with a vacuum, and holding it up showed us nothing. This was black. He then breathed into the vacuum, and by a jet of strong light we could see within the glass tube, which the Professor said was due to the light impinging on particles of matter. So he said it was in space; the vacuum which was occupied by ether was black and dark, but immediately the wave of ether came into contact with the particles of matter that formed the atmosphere, a correlation of the force produced light and heat. The Professor then exhibited a perfectly black disk, and over it placed a film of tissue paper, and the result was a blue colour. This was the reason why the sky looked blue. Into the vacuum within the tube the Professor poured half an ounce of the iodide of allyl. He said that he would not take more, as he only wished to make a small comet, the large ones being frequently unmanageable, particularly if Jupiter came in their way. To this he applied an electric spark, so as to convert the allyl into vapour This rarified so tremendously that the pressure exerted on the sides of the glass jar was very considerable, particularly when a light was applied to the head. Unfortunately the wrong end of the cylindrical glass vessel was upwards, and the stopper not being very secure, the comet exploded. Still, from its lightness, it flew upwards above our heads, and, escaping out of a window, disappeared. Some of the audience thought that the

Professor was jesting, and had set off a sky-rocket, and ran out to pick up the stick, but the only one they could find was the Professor himself.

The Saturday after, however, there appeared in the *Illustrated News*, accompanied by a drawing, an account of a newly-discovered comet, which there can be no doubt was the one exhibited at the Skittish Association, as mathematical calculations demonstrated it to travel in an ellipse, with one end here and the other somewhere else, which is of course perfectly satisfactory.

Reevolution.

DARWINGIAN DENUNCIATIONS.

As we were leaving the Physical Section, after the unexpected escape of the comet, we observed a large number of members making their way in rather an excited manner to the Anthropological Section. On referring to the journal of the day, we found that there was a paper just going to be read "On the Darwing Theory of Revolutions."

We here wish to premise, for the information of those who are not so conversant with scientific literature as we have become since we have been attending the meetings of the Skittish Association, that Mr. Darwing is a celebrated pigeon-fancier, who discovered the fact that pigeons could be made to change their feathers, form, and habits, and came to the conclusion that if he could only keep them long enough, they would change into other animals, and at last Revolutionize the world as well as themselves in the form of man. He therefore some years ago astonished the scientific world with the theory that is associated with his name, and is generally known as the Revolution of Animals. He clearly showed that variation of animals, especially pigeons, was a constant though unknown quantity; and that it only required a few scores of hundred thousand millions of centuries to revolutionize anything into something else. He considered that many of the obsolete organs—not those used in churches, but the barrel—were the remains of parts that had become depauperized from want of use. A very apparent example was seen in vultures and man, in the loss of the feathers of the top of the head, "the place where the wool ought to grow," which was analogous to the moulting of feathers in birds. And the custom of shaving in all civilized nations was the result of a traditional remnant of which the history is lost, and must be looked upon as artificial moulting, which custom, being continually persevered in for several centuries, has led to the loss of hair in the Red Indian of North America and the Heathen Chinee. So in their progressive advancement animals variated by a fixed and unerring Revolutionary law from one kind into another, still retaining the moulting process, until ultimately some of them lost all their feathers and then took to moulting the spinal extremity, it having ceased to be of use when the tail plumage was gone; and finally, having nothing more to lose posteriorly, stood erect in all the glory of man. Just at the time that this theory was made known, Mr. Wallass, another very eminent philosopher, advanced the same notion. He is probably a lineal descendant from the Lion of Scotland—though he denies any connection with the lion who killed his keeper, possibly because he is ashamed to own any relationship with a homicide. We have always observed that when the theory is discussed in his presence without Mr. Darwing, that he is called the originator, and *vice versa* when Mr. Darwing is present, and Mr. Wallass absent. But as we understand that Mr. Wallass got his information through a medium from the spirits of the invisible world, we consider that he took a mean advantage of Mr. Darwing.

Mr. Wallas's theory of the Revolution of the animal kingdom differs from Mr. Darwing's. He declares that the origin of man is to be found in the butterflies of South America. Here he had observed them assuming the shapes and forms of anything around them, and learnt from the invisible spirits, who in the form of woodpeckers (in the absence of tables of special make) rapped on the hollow beech trees of the primæval forest of that distant continent, that they could transform themselves into men as well as anything else; and why not?

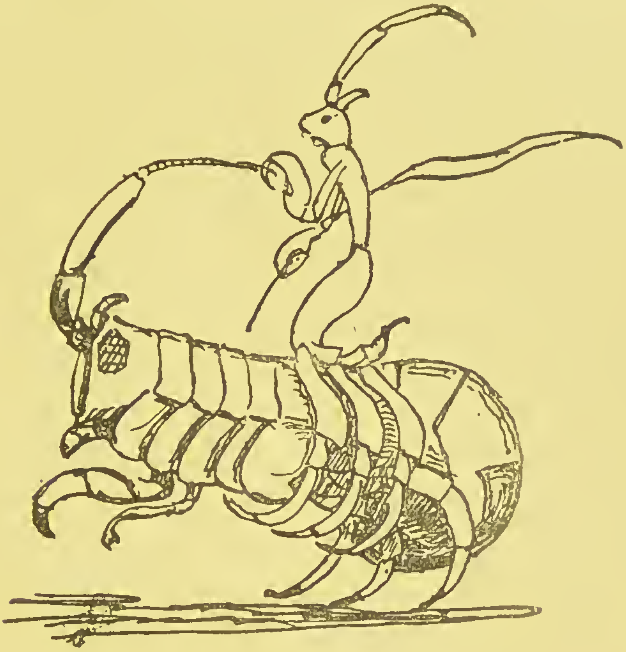
The annunciation of this theory induced a howl of dissatisfaction and dismay from everybody who could not understand it, particularly from those who wished they had thought of the theory themselves; for it is one that has revolutionized the thoughts of Europe in a shorter period in the history of man than any other event.

It was a reply to the foregoing theories and opinions that was now going to be given by the Rev. Professor F. O. DORRIS, E.C.U. As the Lecturer is known to be a very bitter opponent of Mr. Darwing, the paper was expected to be very interesting; for we always observed that the attention of the audience was more directed to enjoying a row among the philosophers than to studying the subject of the lecture. Nor was this always confined to the clergy and laymen; for on this occasion so eagerly was the discussion anticipated that a resolution was passed that the other sections should be suspended, in order that the President and officers might have the opportunity of being present.

The LECTURER commenced by saying that he had a great admiration for Mr. Darwing (clergymen always say this when they mean to cut you up), and all his crew; that his theory was a very grand conception, and that its only fault was that it was not new, or rather that what was new he knew before, and what he did not know before was not original; evidently therefore as a theory it was overrated. Now, in his opinion, a theory to be correct should embody all facts and meet every condition. One that would shew a complete Revolution in nature must meet all circumstances in nature. There was a link wanting in Mr. Darwing's theory, and that link was the very first: Where did the pigeons come from, and how was it that if the pigeons got converted then there were so many pigeons in their unconverted condition now—wretched depraved birds? Those usually met with were a weakly kind of creatures, and frequently protected by rooks. Dr. Bastian, Professor Tindle, Dr. Roberts of Manchester, and Professor Cohn of Breslau, had been trying hard to make animals out of hay and sawdust. Professor Tindle said that he could whenever he liked, and couldn't whenever he like, and that he could out of old hay and could not out of new. Nor did this help Mr. Darwing's theory very much, seeing that hay was not known before man inhabited this earth, so how could he make them then, as none had ever been found in a fossil condition. It was, he contended, the duty of the Revolutionist to trace man gradually back link after link, and then he could see what he came from. This, the lecturer contended, was what he could go, and demonstrate beyond dispute or cavil that man never came from a pigeon at all, but from a crab. In fact common-sense showed this origin as the true genesis of man.

It had been well established by Professor Max Gregor that there was no more certain basis on which to rest than bad language; by means of which he drove the Jews out of Cornwall. This would lead them at once to determine the direction of the hypothesis, although no doubt the terms had variated somewhat, since through the great lapse of time the original language had been lost. Still the remains of it were seen in expressions familiar to them all.

Thus in a garrison town like Tamarworth they observed that some of Her Majesty's corps must have been derived from *Homaroid crustacea,* since they were known as lobsters; and the soldier crabs no doubt gave origin to the gallant defenders of the line; so also they could trace the hermit nature of the solitary priest in the persistent isolation of the hermit crab. Were not ill-tempered people called crabbed; and if crabs walked sideways, did not drunken men lurch? Terms like these could be multiplied; but having suggested the line of argument, it became him to demonstrate the crustacean origin of a man in a scientific manner.



The learned Lecturer proceeded—It has frequently been thrown in one's teeth that man is never found fossil. We pardon the ignorance of the feeble intelligence of those who, in the days of the compound microscope and its discoveries, argue from such a point of view. One would suppose that the fossilized specimens of humanity found in Egypt had never been seen or heard of. It is true that unscientific travellers have taken for granted that they must have been invented by the Egyptians; but there is historical evidence to show that they were in existence long before the flood, or else what is the use of the Egyptian remains. Some persons crustaceously argue, as if the enormous proportions of Memnon and his friend were evidence against my theory, instead of corroborating it. Do we not know that immediately preceding the present geological age all animals were three times as large as those now existing; and why not man, especially woman, as is evidenced by the length of Cleopatra's needle. This argument is conclusive as far as it goes; but I want to go a step farther back, and this will take us to the Silurian age, when, in the dawn of the world, man first showed his nose in creation. The credit of this valuable and interesting discovery (if he only knew, and we are always delighted to record those who merit it) is due to Professor Barrande, of Austria. It is true that he was not aware of the great importance of the facts that he brought to light, and published with illustrations, under the mistaken belief that he had found a series of crustaceous animals, to which the name of *trilobites* were given, a circumstance that evidently adds weight to the crustacean (erroneously called "Cistercian") theory of the origin of man. Professor Barrande has some excuse for not immediately determining the character of his very interesting and important discovery. There is a great difference certainly in the proportions of the cephalic formations discovered by him in the Silurian rocks of Bohemia, and those of the Egyptian fossils disentombed from the sandy catacombs of Africa. With all our desire to think highly of Professor Barrande's research, we however hold that such a mistake should never have occurred to one who is looked upon as a leader among naturalists. And we regret, for his sake, that it should have been left for the researches of a more humble mind to elucidate.

Egypt has generally been hypothecated as the human *fons et origo in locus.* Here again the researches of Barrande show that however much Egypt may have been the nursery of man, certainly Bohemia was the cradle of the human race. Hence the clearest evidence exists that the ancient as well as the modern gypsies are true Bohemians. Of this there can be no doubt, seeing the very small size of the fossil-heads of Bohemian quarries when compared with their Egyptian or even modern prototypes, in addition to which we have the very important discoveries of Dr. Schlymann.

The flattened character of the specimens demonstrates a close relative connection with the flat-headed Indians and other tribes of North America, which squeeze the heads of children during infancy, as no doubt the ancient Bohemians must have done, seeing that all the specimens are so very much compressed. Some nations of modern Europe have no doubt retained the same habit of compression, otherwise we cannot account for the number of "flats" that are still to be met with in the present day.

Having thus clearly demonstrated that man has originated in the trilobite, my next object is to trace him, step by step, through all his gradations up to the present state of civilization. There are several points yet to be established, and I am happy to say that they are gradually disappearing. If, however, this august Association cannot demonstrate to us the several stages of the crawfish and lobster, I may be excused if I cannot tell when man first lost the hair off his body. This is a question that my opponents are continually thrusting at me; and I will promise to tell them, if they will let me know when the first Berkshire pig lost all his bristles.

At this the Lecturer stopped suddenly, as if he had made a point, and having blandly surveyed the audience through his spectacles, which were in a high state of perspiration from the great excitement of his hearers, concluded by quoting the following lines from Addison.

"From point to point they hurried me,
  And thought that I 'd forgot;
But as eggs is eggs, and fish is dabs,
  Once upon a time, boys, we all were crabs!!"

It was much to be deplored that neither Mr. Darwing nor Mr. Wallass was present, as they would have heard much to edify them. But the Lecturer had scarcely sat down before Professor COCKS, the eminent psychist, sprang up, like Lulu refreshed, and protested against the idea that Mr. Wallass got his insects from the spirits, while the Rev. Herbert BOYES swore that he did.

The CHAIRMAN here interfered, and said that they saw quite enough of this kind of thing at the meeting of that peripatetic institution, the British Association, at Glasgow, which ended, as they knew, in a Chancery suit, where all the spirits were bound over to keep the peace. On this occasion he was determined to have harmony, and he therefore called upon the whole company to join in singing the "Natural Anthem," as sung by a Red Lion Cub at Dundee. Those who could not sing had better confine themselves to chanting the chorus.

And so harmoniously as they knew how, the company sweetly warbled—

Have you heard of this question the Doctors among,
Whether all living things from a Monad have sprung?
This has lately been said, and it now shall be sung,
Which nobody can deny.

Not one or two ages sufficed for the feat,
It required a few millions the change to complete;
But now the thing's done, and it looks rather neat,
Which nobody can deny.

The original Monad, our great-great-grandsire,
To little or nothing at first did aspire;
But at last to have offspring it took a desire,
Which nobody can deny.

This Monad becoming a father or mother,
By budding or bursting, produced such another;
And shortly there followed a sister or brother,
Which nobody can deny.

But Monad no longer designates them well—
They're a cluster of molecules now, or a cell;
But which of the two Doctors only can tell,
Which nobody can deny.

These beings, increasing, grew buoyant with life,
And each to itself was both husband and wife:
And at first, strange to say, the two lived without strife,
Which nobody can deny.

But such crowding together soon troublesome grew,
And they thought a division of labour would do;
So their sexual system was parted in two,
Which nobody can deny.

Thus Plato supposes that, severed by fate,
Human halves run about, each in search of its mate,
Never pleased till they gain their original state,
Which nobody can deny.

Excrescences fast were now trying to shoot;
Some put out a feeler, some put out a foot;
Some set up a mouth, and some struck down a root,
Which nobody can deny.

Some wishing to walk, manufactured a limb;
Some rigged out a fin, with a purpose to swim;
Some opened an eye, some remained dark and dim,
Which nobody can deny.

See hydras and sponges and star-fishes breed,
And flies, fleas, and lobsters in order succeed,
While ichthyosauruses follow the lead,
Which nobody can deny.

From reptiles and fishes to birds we ascend,
And quadrupeds next their dimensions extend,
Till we rise up to monkeys and men—where we end,
Which nobody can deny.

Some creatures are bulky, some creatures are small,
As nature sends food for the few or for all;
And the weakest, we know, ever go to the wall,
Which nobody can deny.

A deer with a neck that is longer by half
Than the rest of its family (try not to laugh,)
By stretching and stretching becomes a Giraffe,
Which nobody can deny.

A very tall pig, with a very long nose,
Sends forth a proboscis quite down to his toes;
And he then by the name of an Elephant goes,
Which nobody can deny.

The four-footed beast that we now call a Whale,
Held his hind-legs so close that they grew to a tail,
Which he uses for threshing the sea like a flail,
Which nobody can deny.

Pouters, tumblers, and fantails are from the same source;
The racer and hack may be traced to one Horse;
So Men were developed from Monkeys, of course,
Which nobody can deny.

An Ape with a pliable thumb and big brain,
When the gift of the gab he had managed to gain,
As a Lord of Creation established his reign,
Which nobody can deny.

But I'm sadly afraid, if we do not take care,
A relapse to low life may our prospects impair;
So of beastly propensities let us beware,
Which nobody can deny.

Their lofty position our children may lose,
And, reduced to all-fours, must then narrow their views;
Which would wholly unfit them for filling our shoes,
Which nobody can deny.

Their vertebræ next might be taken away,
When they'd sink to a shell-fish, or spider, some day,
Or the pitiful part of a polypus play,
Which nobody can deny.

Thus losing Humanity's nature and name,
And descending through varying stages of shame,
They'd return to the Monad, from which we all came,
Which nobody can deny.

Economy.

THE PHLEBOTOMISTIC MOTOR.

The last section which we visited was the Economic and Statistical. We were attracted by the announcement that Professor LYON LOFTY was about to introduce a new "phlebotomistic motive power" to supersede steam. The Lecturer explained that it had been reserved for him to make a discovery that threw Watt and Stephenson altogether into the shade. It was the immense motive power this country possessed in its abundant fleas, hitherto practically unutilized, though instances had been recorded in which the fleas in a bed were recognised to have been strong enough, if unanimous, to eject their human companions. The strength of fleas was enormous. An ordinary flea could jump 700 times its own length; an ordinary man only twice his. Hence a flea was 350 times as strong as a man; and as three and a half men went to a horse, it followed that one flea was equal to 100 horses. This was perfectly clear, and he had now only to show what the total "phlebotomistic motive power" of the kingdom was. He included in his calculations only the humane fleas, and excluded those attached to animals as being likely to prove less amenable to training. There were thirty million of people in the United Kingdom, each of whom, on the average, carried about two fleas. The calculation as to the number of fleas to be found at home in their natural abodes—the beds of the community—was more difficult. However, allowing for those who had no beds at all, he reckoned one bed for every three persons. This, at ten fleas to a bed, a number which he was convinced from his travelling experience was considerably under the mark, would give a total bedded flea population of a hundred millions, and a grand total therefore of a hundred and sixty millions. And as he had shown that each flea was of 100 horse-power, they had thus in the country an almost wholly unutilized reserve of motive power equivalent to sixteen hundred thousand million horses. If this discovery were turned to practical account, he should propose that the workhouses should be made depots for feeding purposes, as he had found that if fed upon the blood of persons who used high diet fleas became lazy.

There would have been an interesting discussion, but the SECRETARY said the object of the section was economy, and at once, to save time, proceeded to read a paper of his own, the purpose of which was to show that the truest economist of himself and his energies was the man who did nothing, and therefore had his capabilities always in reserve. The paper was so long that we regretted the author had not followed his own advice. However it had one good result; for the Council of the Association, who were happily present, were so impressed that they came to the unanimous decision, as they could not extinguish all the sections at once, that they would commence the practice of economy by getting rid of this one. Strange to say, however, the Secretary did not look happy.

Ye conclusion of ye old matter.

The Committee upon the whole appeared to have been rather gratified with their enquiries. They had made acquaintance with many learned men, and had found them pleasant company (at least that is the more probable reading of the manuscript, though Miss Oidenne contends that the original expression is, "Jol-good-fellowsh," which is very good indeed); they had learnt a great many things they had not known before; and they were of opinion that the Skittish Association should be invited to Dockton as speedily as possible, since the meeting at Tamarworth had been so successful. They were also disposed to recommend that if Dockton would only behave itself it should be countenanced by Tamarworth in this proceeding, though they confessed that Dockton would have to turn over a new leaf if this was to be the case. However "it was never too late to mend."

TAMARWORTH:
WILLIAM BRENDON AND SON, GEORGE STREET.